

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 2-5 are amended and claims 6-13 are cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 6-13 are directed to non-elected subject matter and, thus, are cancelled to expedite the prosecution of the other claims in the application. Applicant reserves the right to seek patent protection for the subject matter of cancelled claims 6-13 in a further application. New claims 18-29 are added. Accordingly, claims 1-5 and 14-29 are pending in the application. Examination and consideration of the application, with the present amendments, is requested.

In response to the Restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action dated January 10, 2007, applicant provisionally elects, with traverse, Group I, which the Examiner identified as corresponding to claims 1 and 14-17.

Claims 2, 3, 4 and 5 are each amended herein, to depend from claim 1. New claims 18-29 are added to further protect aspects of the invention. Claims 18-20 are dependent on claim 14. Claims 21-22 are dependent on claim 15. Claims 23-25 are dependent on claim 16. Claims 26 and 27 are dependent on claim 17. Accordingly, each of the new claims 18-29 is dependent on a claim in the elected group. New claims 18-20 and 23-25 are supported by the original application, for example, at paragraphs 0059-0065. New claims 21, 22, 26 and 27 are supported by the original application, for example, at paragraphs 0073-0075. No new matter is added to the application by the new claims.

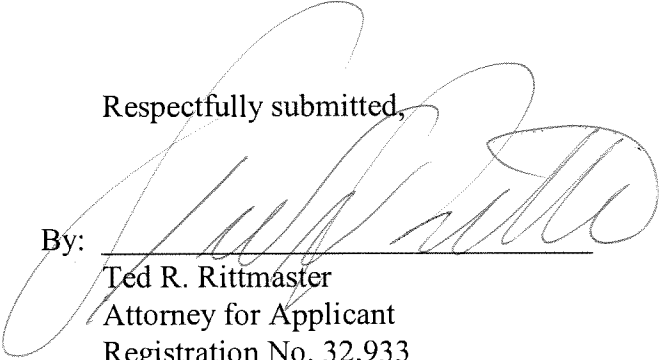
Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0872. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 50-0872. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0872.

Respectfully submitted,

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